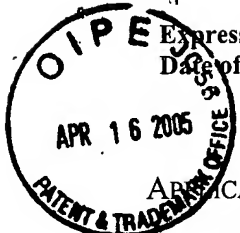


4-18.05

IFW
RB



Express Mailing Label No. EV475171778US
Date of Deposit: April 15, 2005

Attorney Docket No: 21486-027DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Hopkins et al.
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/722,279 EXAMINER: Javier G. Blanco
FILING DATE: November 24, 2003 ART UNIT: 3738
FOR: CARDIAC VALVE REPLACEMENT

April 15, 2005
Boston, Massachusetts

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office action mailed on October 15, 2004, Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.